

**1997 CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM CATEGORY III  
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS  
INQUIRY SUBMITTAL**

a. **Project Title:** Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Environmental Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction Plan

**Applicant Name:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District

**Point of Contact:** Walter Yep, Chief, Planning Division, (916) 557-6699

b. **Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives:** This proposed ecosystem watershed management plan will enhance and restore aquatic, shaded riverine aquatic, seasonal wetland, and aquatic habitats in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This plan will also analyze improving water quality, improving flood control, restraining saltwater intrusion, reducing sedimentation, and reducing subsidence. The Delta was once a vast tule marsh, teeming with wildlife. Starting in the 1950's, the islands were diked and pumped out by farmers eager to farm the rich peat soil. Now, the many tracts and islands are bounded by interconnecting waterways and ringed by 1,100 miles of levees which normally prevent the fertile lands from being flooded by high tides or high river stages.

c. **Approach/Tasks/Schedule:** Initial study efforts will include expanding the scope of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Special Study for environmental restoration. Early efforts will entail development of the proposed environmental restoration sites targeted by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Special Study. The study will include a post-flood assessment of weakness of the Delta islands and an updated system hydrology incorporating recent floods (1986, 1995, and 1997). The study will analyze reducing the sedimentation load from the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River watersheds. The study will be divided into 10 tasks (aquatic, shaded riverine aquatic restoration, seasonal wetland, water quality, flood control, saltwater intrusion, sedimentation, subsidence, environmental educational facilities, and recreation centers) and will be completed in 3 years.

d. **Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED:** See Item h. The Corps of Engineers will provide 50 percent of the cost of the ecosystem watershed management plan.

e. **Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts:** Request CALFED funds up to 50 percent of costs for the total Ecosystem Watershed Management Plan as follows: \$2 million for aquatic, shaded riverine aquatic restoration, and seasonal wetland; \$3 million for water quality, flood control, saltwater intrusion, sedimentation, and subsidence; and \$1 million for environmental educational facilities and recreational centers.

f. **Applicant Qualifications:** The Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, as authorized and directed by Congress, has prepared numerous environmental restoration and flood damage reduction reports for areas throughout northern and central California, including Sacramento

River Basin, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and San Joaquin River Basin. The Corps is currently in partnership with the State Department of Water Resources and The Reclamation Board to analyze (1) risk-based flood reduction for five islands (Sherman, Twitchell, Brannan/Andrus, Tyler, and Staten); (2) a conceptual plan for environmental restoration to the entire Delta as reflected by current Federal and State policy; (3) a levee criteria development program with construction of a levee test section on Sherman Island; (4) potential Corps navigation studies; and (5) documentation of Delta policy and planning activities with other agencies. To coordinate the effort, the Corps and State DWR will provide to CALFED, USFWS, and interested individuals/groups status on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Special Study. The proposed ecosystem watershed management plan will ensure a cost-effective approach to environmental restoration, flood plain management, protection of important environmental and natural resource values that are inherent to the adjacent lands. Guidance from OMB and CEQ will ensure that all relevant options, including nonstructural alternatives, are considered.

**g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation:** Monitoring will include comparative vegetative measurements of new riparian habitat, counting and comparing existing and new wildlife species in the Delta', sampling water quality and sediment, flood control, and environmental impact analysis. The environmental educational facilities will be the center for all the monitoring activities. Detailed methods of monitoring the effects of restoration over time will be developed as an integral element of the plans.

**h. Local Support/Coordination with Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED**

**Objectives:** The need for developing an ecosystem watershed management plan for improving the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has long been recognized by the Corps, the State of California, other Federal and State agencies, and local interest groups. This ecosystem watershed management plan would support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. The plan would also contribute significantly to developing a long-term solution to problem affecting the Bay Delta, improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and improve ecological functions throughout the basin. The plan would be consistent with the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan and philosophy on ecological functions, processes, habitat, species, and stressors.